

‘The Educated’ with Ante-*Bābhel Saṁskṛt*, written in T<sub>E</sub>X

## The Educated

by

Kit Johnstone, Ph.D.

Literacy implies literariness and letters. It is not the spoken languages that count but the alphabets. Being educated is not whether you know how to *say* ‘hello’, say in Chinese, but whether you can *write* ‘hello’ in the same. Thus past India Brahmins prohibited the teaching of *written Saṁskṛt* to those of lower castes; thus a Japanese in China knowing no Chinese was treated and honoured as a learnt person when he could ask and answer questions on a piece of paper.

That was from a viewpoint focusing on people, now for a viewpoint focusing on language. To be of any use for learnings and learnedness a language need to be written. You need not write things down all the time, but you have to be able to write them down from time to time as need be. A language without a writing system could only be simplistic. The better developed and the more efficient your writing system is, the better and the more possibility of expressing your ideas.

Kit Tyabandha, Ph.D.  
Manchester, 2009